Editorial Comment

Mr. Kennedy's Task

The new President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, has made an excellent start on his Administration. His inauguration was perhaps the most impressive in many decades, and it is generally agreed, at home and abroad, it in all parts, that his Inaugural Address was a brilliant and statesmanlike masterpiece. It might well be reverted among the all-time classics.

However, to be realistic, it must be submitted that he will face major problems during his years at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

First, President Kennedy will face the test of running the most powerful democracy in the world, at a time of serious challenge from an alien ideology and strong military power. He faces the problem of American gold and its international credit in jeopardy, following an Administration which, in times of alleged peace and prosperity, yet increased the debt and national cost by nearly $15 billion, and left over 5 million unemployed, and the farmer and aged and health and defense problems of the nation in dire circumstances. These problems rise for him an awesome responsibility. There is contention between the different sections of the country, between management and labor, between city-farming interests in many fields, and a tremendous job is called for.

In this category, is the need for an upbuilding of American prestige in the world at large. It is a situation calling for true statesmanship.

Secondly, President Kennedy has the challenge of also being a politician. Always in mind must be the knowledge that, as a young man, he would hope for a vote of confidence in 1964, so as to occupy his office for the full eight years. To do so, he must smooth out the tremendous differences within his own party and seek to steer a road along Political Lane which will marry his party into a unified instrument of government.

We are cheered by his vigor and the splendid start he has made. It is our opinion, that he will have a period of general good-will and cooperation. The first months of 1961 should see an era of good-will and advancement. But, as a President makes decisions, he steps on toes, and there will be a time when it will be seen what he does when the going gets "rough."

And so, in our way of government, we call upon our President to be two people: a Statesman, and a Politician! It is our prayer that this able and personable young man from Massachusetts will be given every chance to "make good" and that Americans will understand the magnitude of his task. And so, we say: God bless and inspire, and lead the President of the United States.

The Old Days

We sometimes think it would be good to return to the "old days," when life seemed to move along on an even keel, and when one had time to organize his thoughts, his actions, and even his business. Then, again, having to do without the modern conveniences we now enjoy would be a heavy price.

Nevertheless, life in America several decades ago was a good one, and had some advantages. There seemed to be more time for people to talk, to play games together, and to meet in the community and the family gatherings.

Because there was not so much entertainment, in the form of moving pictures, television, etc., people relied upon themselves, their mind, and their activities to develop their own methods of stimulation and entertainment. It was a good practice, and developed the American sense of humor and the homespun philosophy and understanding so vital in dealing with our fellowmen.

Instead of this life, the average businessman today is dashing away from his home in the morning, gulping down a lunch during a crowded schedule during the day, and often working into the night, or attending some special meeting at night. He can live next door to two or three families and hardly know them, even after several years in the same home.

All of us, in town and on the farm, should think of this problem. Life that is worth living is one worth thinking about, and, to do much thinking, one has to have a little time to relax and contemplate life, his future, and his fellow man.

KENNEDY SELLS OUT PERSONAL INVESTMENTS

John F. Kennedy has disposed of all his stocks and bought government bonds with them. He will almost certainly take a loss as a result of this action.

Kennedy is known to be a millionaire. Thus the sale of all his private stocks and securities must have been a considerable undertaking. It is said he has disposed of these stocks in the past sixty days.

The idea behind the sale is to avoid any possible conflict of interests between private companies and the public office Mr. Kennedy now holds as President.

The example being set is a sound one and we hope other government office holders will do likewise.

Kennedy has also said that he would not accept gifts of any great value, while he is President. This, too, is a correct position.

Morally, there should be no higher calling than that of public service. It is commendable that a good example is being set by the new President.

Washington Notes

Red China Propaganda

The United States Information Agency said, in a recent report on a study of twelve years of Communist broadcasting, that the most spectacular development was the rapid growth of Communist China's international propaganda broadcasting.

Communist countries broadcast for about 3,000 hours a week in fifty-five languages, as compared to the United States broadcasting 550 hours a week in thirty-six languages.

New Advancement Plan

A Defense Department committee has proposed that officer promotions be based more on ability and less on length of service.

The recommendations, drafted by a special eight-man committee, have been circulated among the services. The group hopes to forward its proposals to Congress by early summer.

The plan would bring about greater uniformity in the promotional policies of the armed services.

Dependents May Return

The Navy plans to bring home about 11,000 of the 49,000 dependents of Navy personnel overseas in the next nineteen months.

The 11,000 figure announced recently by the Navy is well below the original schedule by the Defense Department, after the program was ordered by President Eisenhower to save dollar spending abroad by reducing the number of dependents of service men at overseas posts.

An Aide To Visit Mr. K.?

President Kennedy is believed to be considering sending a special emissary to the Soviet Union. The mission would be to sound out the Premier on what ideas he may have on improving Soviet - American relations.

Silver Scarce, Too?

The United States Treasury, already beset by a gold problem, is facing a similar silver situation.

By mid-1963, if the present trends continue, the department will lose its long standing power to dictate the international price of silver.

If that should happen, you might have to pay more for a number of items ranging from silver jewelry to photographic film.

An increase in the price of silver could also affect coinage in many parts of the world.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Was Christ a weather prophet? Did He originate any weather folklore?

Eric Sloane, who has written a number of books on weather and who studied the subject, reports that Christ was the source of the old saying about a red sunset and clear weather next day.

Christ said: "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering." (Matthew, chapter 16, verses 2 and 3.)

Christ was probably repeating the weather sayings of the Pharisees in this case and at least the latter half of his guide may have been wrong. A red sunrise does not usually mean rain. The reference to lowering clouds, however, is sound weather lore, for lowering clouds are a sign of approaching rain. And a red sunset does indicate fair weather.

FHA LOANS AVAILABLE TO PART-TIME FARMERS

The Farmers Home Administration has liberalized its loan policies for part-time farmers, Hunter P. Evans, County Supervisor, reports.

Part-time farmers working small farms may now obtain short-term loans for operating and family living expenses. The loans are for one crop year and are secured by liens on crops, also on livestock and equipment if available.

These loans are designed to take care of the annual credit needs of small farmers with limited crop acreage allotments and other farmers considered as hardship cases, who do not have adequate credit available.

More information on this and on other types of loans available to farmers through the Farmers Home Administration can be obtained at the county FHA office, located in the Watson Building at Farmville. Mr. Evans also has part-time office at Appomattox, at the ASC office each Tuesday from 9:00 to 9:30 A. M.

What human beings are unable to understand, they attribute to the Almighty, either as a blessing or as punishment.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

By Dr. Kenneth L. Smith

Bible Material: John 3.
Devotional Reading: John 8:21-32.

Our Authority

Lesson for January 29, 1961

IT HAS been said that once upon a time the "great man" had authority over others. The modern man who wishes to be great must be an authority on something important. After all, these two are not very different. If a man comes to be an authority on something of importance he will be accepted by others interested in the same things he is an authority over them, as well as on the subject.

Christ, Our Authority

Dr. Foreman

Jesus Christ is said by St. Paul to be "Head over all things to the church." That is even more true today than when Paul wrote it. There are many churches, or more exactly speaking many denominations, many types of Christian individuals and groups. All of these claim Christ for their "head," though they may not always express themselves in just this language. This is a phenomenon that calls for investigation. How is it that Christ has retained his authority from the day he healed a small group of fishermen and other village people around Galilee to this so different day and time with more than $48,000,000 Christians around the world all looking to Christ as the Number One Authority for their lives?

Christian churches may differ as to the exact way in which the authority of Jesus Christ comes down to us. Some would say it does not come down at all. He lives in each Christian by His Spirit. Each Christian if he listens will hear Christ's authority in his own heart. Others find his authority in the Bible. Others in the officers and leaders of a church in its history and other clergy. But it all goes back to Christ. How it this?

Jesus' followers have never claimed that he is the world's leading authority on railroads, or financial methods for political campaigns, or food-control, or Chinese music. There was a time when Jesus was considered by many people to have superhuman knowledge, even perfect knowledge about everything. But the church never took this notion seriously. What the church does take seriously, and does claim, is that our Lord was and is the greatest authority over what is more vital than railroads or politics or more urgent than food control, more fundamental than Chinese music. He is our authority over life, because he is an authority on it, the authority on it. By life we mean in particular and in general all that is concerned with and grows out of human relationships, indeed all that is concerned with and growing out of the relationship we have to God.

Authority Over Life

Jesus himself, we may be certain, had won his authority by actual living. His graduate degree in life was an earned degree, not an honorary one. It was not rolled out from a "degree mill," he had actually been through the hard school that Experience keeps. It may have occurred to you to wonder sometimes, why the people took the Sermon on the Mount, and other high teachings of Jesus as readily as they did. Although his teaching about life is very difficult and more difficult to do than to understand—nobody ever said he was talking nonsense. Why didn't they? If his teaching was so foolish as some critics have thought it was, his friends surely would have seen to it that none of it would be exposed to the ridicule of posterity. But it was not that way. The teaching was heard, cherished and treasured on. And the original reason for this was that the first people who heard him talking knew that he had hammered all this out on the anvil of his own living. They knew that he knew God and knew men, and he spoke out of knowledge, not by guesswork.

So that the church accepts him loyally to this day not as one who had been taught to say a piece and said it—this is not what he meant by saying he spoke only the words of the Father. Christ was more than a recording tape. He was a faithful Son who had learned in his Father's school.

Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.

The happiest life is to be found around a contented home, where the family lives at peace with itself, its fellowman, and with God.

Allies keep travel curbs on East Germans.

Medical Costs

Medical costs per person are over 1 1/2 times more for older than for younger farm families, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A nation-wide survey conducted by the USDA and the Bureau of Census indicated medical costs for farm families in which the farm operators were 65 years of age or older averaged $92 a year per person; those of all others, $59.

Among farm families in which the farm operator was 65 or older, 12.5 per cent of the family net income was spent for medical items. The proportion for all other younger families was about 9 per cent. Only 37 per cent of the older families, compared with 55 per cent of the younger families, had any kind of medical insurance.

Increases in the cost of medical expenses for farm families between 1956 and 1958 were more than four times as great as increases in all farm-family consumption expenses.

SENIOR TRI-HI-Y

The regular monthly meeting of the Senior Tri-Hi-Y of the Appomattox High School, was held on Thursday, Jan. 18, in the high school auditorium. The meeting was called to order by the president. Devotions were given by the chaplain, and the secretary and treasurer gave their reports.

Carolyn Mays, president, read a letter of thanks from the Children's Home in Salem, Va., for the gifts sent to them at Christmas.

A program on 'Manners' was presented. The following took part on the program: Joan Moses, Lou Jamerson, Alice Martin, Peggy Page, Ann Martin, and Mary Clenny.

—Sandra Trent, Reporter

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We submit that it is to your advantage to do just that. The listings on this page are typical of the many and varied services available richt here in your home community. You can park here for free, and transact your business with your neighbors and friends, with plenty of time to shop and talk over your problems and needs, and you will be saving travel time, saving when it comes to service, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are a positive factor in the community And the prices for these services are completely in line. It costs no more to do business in Appomattox, and in many cases, the cost is less. So why not get on "The Appomattox Team!" Let's make this historic community the best of its size in Virginia.

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